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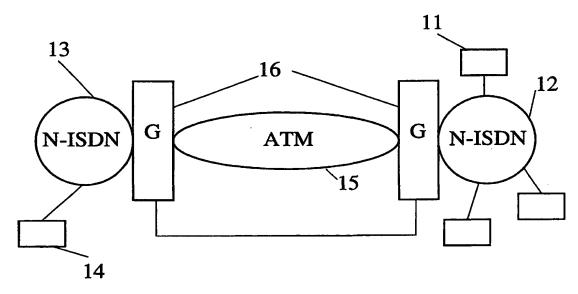
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(57) Abstract

A communications network configuration comprises a packet network to which a plurality of terminals are connected, a service provider network, a circuit switched network provided intermediate the packet and service provider networks. A distributed gateway provides an interface between the circuit switched network and the service provider and packet networks whereby to effect access of the packet network to services provided by the service provider network.

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